



Community Grant - Upgrade to High Ham Parish Council's Play Area (Executive Decision)

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Purpose of the Report

Councillors are asked to consider the awarding of a grant of £11,000 towards the upgrade to High Ham Parish Council's play area at High Ham playing field for the benefit of local residents and the wider community in South Somerset.

Public Interest

Awarding grants is a key way that SSDC supports and helps to deliver community projects sponsored by Parishes and voluntary community organisations in the towns and villages across the district.

High Ham Parish Council has applied to the Area North community grants programme for financial assistance with the costs of upgrading the High Ham Parish Council's play area at High Ham playing field. The Locality Officer is submitting this report to enable the Area North Committee to make an informed decision about the application and has assessed the application.

Recommendation

That Area North Committee recommend to the Chief Executive that a grant of £11,000 be awarded to High Ham Parish Council towards the upgrade of the play area at High Ham playing field. The grant to be allocated from the Area North capital programme and subject to SSDC standard conditions for community grants (appendix A).

Application Details

Name of applicant:	High Ham Parish Council
Project:	Upgrade to High Ham Parish Council's play area at High Ham playing field
Total project cost:	£31,000
Amount requested from SSDC:	£11,000
% amount requested:	35%
Application assessed by:	Adrian Moore

Community Grants Assessment Score

The table below shows the grant scoring for this application. Applications must meet the minimum score of 22 to be considered for SSDC funding under Community Grants policies.

Category	Max Score available	Officer assessment score
A Supports Council Plan/Area Chapter	1	1
B Supports Equalities & Diversity	1	1
C Supports Environment Strategy	3	1
D Need for Project	10	7
E Capacity of Organisation	15	12
F Financial need	7	5
Total	37	27

Background

The Parish Council at High Ham own the playing field and it is managed by the High Ham Playing Field Management Committee, which is a branch of the Parish Council. Their aim is to provide and maintain a public open space for recreation and sport.

The main climbing frame at High Ham Parish Council's play area at the playing field has slowly deteriorated over the last few years and has had to be removed for safety reasons. This essential item of play equipment needs to be replaced and upgraded to meet the needs of the local young children. The Parish Council would like to do this in 2022 in-line with commemorating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee year as a project to invest in the future of the village.

This play area facility is the only one in the village and extremely popular as it is directly adjacent to the BMX track and other available open space for ball play. The play area provides a safe and fun environment for children of all abilities in the village.

The Project

New safety surfacing and a new multiplay climbing frame with four towers, climbing net, bridges, talking tubes, slide and sliding pole.

This play tower has four towers and a variety of play activities resulting in longer play time and many benefits for health and well-being. The many access points all provide a different challenge, helping children to strengthen their muscles and coordination, as they will be eager to play with the many stimulating activities in the towers. The play panels provide opportunities to create fun and imaginative play themes that will extend the play. The talking tubes are a responsive element that will spark children's curiosities and will encourage imagination and social play. Many bridges and means

of exiting the play tower will support physical decision making. Sliding and gliding supports posture and balance, all important skills, and fun. The variety of play activities will encourage children to play together and will enrich and extend their play activities in active outdoor play that stimulates creativity and thinking.

It will provide the socially isolated community the opportunity for exercise, learning through play and create a social meeting point for children and young families.

Other play equipment companies were approached and following consultation in the local school, the children decided on the chosen design.

Local support / evidence of need

By upgrading and modernising the play equipment, it will help to encourage children to take part in physical activity and develop healthy habits and lifestyles. It will provide a fun focus for parents and children to play together and forge relationships with other local families.

The play equipment has been designed to be as inclusive as possible. This will allow children and adults of all abilities to interact and play together in a rich and engaging way.

The new play equipment will be promoted via local press and social media platforms, parish notice boards, plenty of signage and word of mouth.

Project costs

Project costs – subject to revision	Cost £
Supply and installation of Kompan Four Tower Unit PCM 400521	21,000
60m ² of Base Ground works to include dig out spoil or removal of turf, install compacted MOT Type 1 onto a geotextile weed suppressant membrane	2,500
Supply and install 70m ² at 50 mm of Autumn blend Tiger Mulch safer surfacing to an area of approved subbase	4,500
Removal of existing old climbing frame legs	500
Responsible disposal of existing surfacing and all spoil	2,000
Welfare unit	500
Total	31,000

Funding plan

Funding source	Secured or pending	Amount £
Parish Council	Secured	5,000
High Ham Playing Field Management Committee funds	Secured	15,000
SSSDC Community Grant	Pending	11,000
Total		31,000

Conclusion and Recommendation

It is recommended that a grant of £11,000 is awarded.

Financial Implications

The balance in the Area North Capital programme is £35,356. If the recommended grant of £11,000 is awarded, £24,356 will remain.

Grants are awarded subject to all other funding being secured before the commencement of the project and are on a % basis of the full project costs. Payment of the grant cannot exceed the grant award and is proportionally reduced if full project costs are under budget.

Council Plan Implications

Council Plan themes and Areas of focus for 2021/22

Focus 4 – Places where we live

To enable housing and communities to meet the existing and future needs of residents and employers, we will work to:

- Enable the delivery of good quality housing in appropriate places across all tenures, to meet community needs
- Maximise the provision of affordable housing
- Support rural communities and economies through delivery of affordable housing
- Prevent people losing their home and supporting people who are homeless to have a place they can call home
- Support communities to identify any housing need in their parish and support them to meet this demand, including supporting Community Land Trusts
- Support provision of housing for Life long independent living
- To deliver sustainable communities where people want to live and thrive
- Proactively identify adaptable housing and community solutions responding to the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic
- Promote and encourage environmentally sustainable housing, including to protect the Somerset Levels and Moors when determining planning submissions following advice from Natural England.

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

None



Equality and Diversity Implications

<i>An Equality Impact Relevance Check Form has been completed in respect of the Proposal?</i>	Yes
<i>The Impact Relevance Check indicated that a full EIA was required?</i>	No
<i>If an EIA was not required please attach the Impact Relevance Check Form as an Appendix (Appendix B) to this report and provide a brief summary of its findings in the comments box below.</i>	
<i>If an EIA was required please attach the completed EIA form as an Appendix to this report and provide a brief summary of the result of your Equality Impact Assessment in the comment box below.</i>	
Additional Comments	
The improvements to the existing play area aims to provide for children of all abilities in the local community.	

Background Papers

None.

Standard conditions applying to all SSDC Community Grants

The applicant agrees to: -

- Notify SSDC if there is a material change to the information provided in the application.
- Start the project within six months of the grant offer and notify SSDC of any changes to the project or start date as soon as possible.
- Confirm that all other funding sources have been secured before starting the project, if these were not already in place at the time of the application.
Acknowledge SSDC assistance towards the project in any relevant publicity about the project (e.g. leaflets, posters, websites, and promotional materials) and on any permanent acknowledgement (e.g. plaques, signs etc.).
- Work in conjunction with SSDC officers to monitor and share the success of the project and the benefits to the community resulting from SSDC's contribution to the project.
- Provide a project update and/or supply before and after photos if requested
- Supply receipted invoices or receipts which provide evidence of the **full** cost of the project so that the grant can be released.
- Complete an evaluation survey when requested after the completion of the project.
- Note that they cannot apply for another community grant for the same project within a 3 year period of this award.

Standard conditions applying to buildings, facilities and equipment

- Establish and maintain a “sinking fund” to support future replacement of the building / facility / equipment as grant funding is only awarded on a one-off basis.
- Use the SSDC Building Control Service when buildings regulations are required.
- Incorporate disabled access and provide an access statement where relevant.

Additional conditions applying to Play & Facilities

- All play equipment considered for purchase will have passed an EN1176 test.
- All play equipment installed will have Impact Absorbing Surfacing (safety surfacing) installed to EN1177 standard.
- All play equipment installed will have a Post Installation Inspection completed by a fully trained person.
- Ensure that the play area is inspected and maintained in accordance with EN1176 or a successive standard
- Provide good quality signage to buildings and facilities.

Special conditions

None.